

Memorandum

To: Shirley Medina, Planning & Programming Manager

From: Grace Alvarez, Staff Analyst

Subject: TCM Categories

Date: April 10, 2009

At your request, I have reviewed the Transit and System Management Measures categories listed in Table IV-A of SCAG RTIP Guidelines for TCM Project Categories in the South Coast Air Basin, and have the following observations/comments.

Based on the fact that TCM are specific transportation projects and programs committed to improve air quality that provide multiple benefits, including reductions of emissions and improvements to mobility and accessibility and that can help support better urban form, I suggest that some of the categories currently listed in Table IV-A, Sub-Section B, that include bicycle and pedestrian facilities (new as well as expansion), clearly define what constitutes this type of facilities and how this type of facility needs to function to act as an intermodal transportation system for the region and the state.

In researching information in Caltrans website, I found an interesting study "Pedestrian & Bicycle Facilities in California" a technical reference and technology transfer synthesis for Caltrans Planners and Engineers, prepared for Caltrans by Alta Planning + Design, July 2005 http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/survey/pedestrian/TR_MAY0405.pdf.

This document could be a good resource to define the bicycle and pedestrian facilities that could qualify as TCM for the region. For example, in order for the bicycle facilities to qualify as TCM, the facilities need to extend the reach of transit systems, provide mobility options, improve accessibility for all persons, and help encourage people to have active lifestyles that interconnect with other modes of transportation, and/or that will function as an intermodal transportation system for the metropolitan area. There are several categories of bicycle and pedestrian facilities that help meet the goal of improving air quality, such as:

- ☐ Commuter bike trails
- ☐ Bicycle routes to school
- ☐ Transit interfaces with bicyclist and pedestrians
- ☐ Bicycle parking/bicycle security & racks
- ☐ Bike stations – attended facilities at major transit locations that offer secure bicycle parking, bicycle rentals and other services, with access to public transportation, convenient hours, and information to plan commute trips.

Based on my short experience with the programming of projects in the RTIP, the fact that the project description includes bike lanes, the project review by SCAG staff triggers the

project as a TCM in the SCAB region. It would be best to request detailed information in our Project Programming Request forms to identify all the elements of the project, including the type of bicycle and pedestrian facilities planned as an element of the overall project, to determine if indeed the project will be contributing to the reduction of emissions and/or providing an alternative mode of transportation, qualifying the project to be a TCM in our region.

There are some projects that would surely qualify for TCM and that potentially reduce emissions and provide alternate mode of transportation, such as Class I bike paths: Rails-to-Trails; Class I Bike Path: Under-Crossings; Class II Bike Lanes: On-Street Parking; Class III Bike Route: Bicycle Boulevards; Signals: Bicycle Signals; Roadway Design: Removing Travel Lanes (see graphics on hyperlink document – page No's 88, 93, 95, 99, 104, and 133).

The transit expansion and improvements needs to clarify that the expansion encompasses the actual expansion of bus stops to create an incentive for more transit ridership; the enhancements of existing bus shelters do not contribute to increase ridership, therefore, shall not be included as TCMs.

The rest of the TCM categories, such as high occupancy vehicle measures; transit and intermodal transfer facilities (components of Transit and System Management Measures); and information-based transportation strategies, when implemented as intended, do contribute to reduction of emissions and improve mobility, supporting a better urban form.